

## Base Briefs

### CHIEF'S INDUCTION CEREMONY, DINNER

The Vandenberg Chief's Group holds the annual Chief Master Sergeant Induction Ceremony and dinner at 6 p.m. tomorrow in the Pacific Coast Club. Cost for the evening is \$25. Dress for military members is the mess dress or semi-formal uniform. Civilian attire is coat and tie. For more information, call Chief Master Sgt. Vee Hunt at 605-6416.

### EYEGLASS COLLECTION

The 30th Medical Group is collecting used eyeglasses for a humanitarian mission to Quetzaltenango, Guatemala March 15-29. A 13-member team will see approximately 10,000 patients in four villages. Drop off eyeglasses now at the Vandenberg Optometry Clinic or Crestview Elementary School so they can be cleaned and shipped by early February.

### GC PATCH DESIGN CONTEST

Submit ideas for Vandenberg's 2003 Guardian Challenge competition patch. Entries should be color artwork and can be e-mailed to Capt. Scott Lisko, 30th Weather Squadron. A panel of judges will select the winning design and the artist will receive a \$50 savings bond. The final patch will be three and one half to four inches in diameter. Today is the last day to submit an entry. For more information, call Lisko at 606-8683.

### LEGAL ASSISTANCE CLOSURE

The 30th Space Wing Legal Office will be closed for legal assistance Feb. 10 - 12.

Normal legal assistance hours are: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday and Thursday 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Notaries and Powers of Attorney can be obtained during regular office hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call Master Sgt. Cary Rosson at 605-6200.

### OUTDOOR CLOSURE

Areas of North Vandenberg AFB will be closed to all outdoor recreation from Sunday through Jan. 31. The area affected is Area 4, and includes all areas north of San Antonio Road West, and east of Lompoc-Casmalia Road. Call the Vandenberg Fish and Wildlife Section at 606-6804 with questions.

### SPECIAL OBSERVANCES WOMEN, HOLOCAUST

The Vandenberg Military Equal Opportunity office is seeking volunteers to chair the following special observances: Women's History Month in March and Days of Remembrance of Victims of the Holocaust

See BRIEFS Page A3

# Launch Facility-23 gets big facelift

By 2ND LT. KELLY GABEL

30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Launch Facility-23 on North Vandenberg is undergoing a major face-lift in order to get ready to test boosters for the Ground-based Midcourse Defense Program.

The Boeing Company and Orbital Sciences Corporation are competing for the contract to build the boosters for four operational interceptors scheduled to be in place here by 2005, said Lt. Col. Rick Lehner, National Missile Defense Agency spokesman. The interceptors are part of the missile defense program announced by President Bush last year.

The booster tests scheduled to begin in spring of this year are risk-reduction for the operational interceptors, said Capt. Carrie Brackett, Detachment 9, Space and Missile Systems Center test program manager.

"The vehicles will have no payload associated with them; they'll be booster tests only," she said.

Bechtel crews are breathing life into LF-23, a Minuteman intercontinental ballistic missile facility, through a complete refurbishment, after the facility was



PHOTOS BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA

Workers wrangle a steel silo liner into Launch Facility-23 here Jan. 15. The silo has been inactive since the 1960's and is now being refurbished to support the Missile Defense Agency's Ground-based Midcourse Defense booster verification program.



virtually abandoned in the 1960s, Brackett said.

Bechtel International is contracted to complete the refurbishment, which has been a very involved process, Brackett said.

In order to prepare the site, environmental teams addressed several concerns including the removal of lead-based paint and

asbestos.

Last week the contractor began some of the most visible renovations.

Using a 110-foot flatbed truck, crews brought in a steel sleeve, weighing in at 118,000 pounds and built by Oregon Ironworks, said Mike Jackson, Bechtel site manager.

In order to accommodate the large and heavy vehicle, some roadwork was required and the 30th Civil Engineer Squadron was there to support, Brackett said.

"CE really stepped up to the plate to get this done. It was a big job—among other things, there were a lot of potholes to fill and they did it all very quickly and over

the Christmas timeframe," she said.

This week, crews will fit the sleeve into the existing silo and pour cement to fill the space between them, Jackson said.

The renovations are expected to be complete by March, Brackett said. Launch Facility 21, which was refurbished in 2000, will also be used to test boosters, she added.

## Remembering Dr. King



PHOTO BY SENIOR AIRMAN JONATHAN POMEROY

**Lt. Col. Angela Thompson, 30th Medical Operations Squadron commander, reads a passage from the book of Isaiah in the Bible during the Martin Luther King Jr. commemorative service at Chapel 1 here Jan. 15. The third Monday in January has been set aside to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. This year's theme was "A day on, not a day off!"**

## Units shine on inspection

By CAPT. CHARITY HARTLEY AND CAPT. DEREK SCHIN  
576th Flight Test Squadron

■ Missile launch videos and pounding music permeated the base theater as senior Space Warfare Center leadership, numerous base leaders and more than 300 people waited, screamed and then cheered.

The intercontinental ballistic missile contingent of Vandenberg AFB got its rating from a combined 20th Air Force and Air Force Space Command Inspector General inspection team. The verdict -- excellent.

The 576th Flight Test Squadron and 595th Space Group (the Vandenberg ICBM team) received an excellent rating from the IG, both overall and in all three rating areas.

Both units walked away with an overall excellent rating, and individual excellent ratings for almost all flights or divisions in the two units.

This was the first IG visit for the unit in many years and was the first-ever inspection that combined both higher headquarters.

"We asked for this combined inspection to get a good sight picture on all areas of the unit," said Brig. Gen. Douglas Fraser, SWC commander.

"We wanted to show the rest of the community how far we'd come. You just proved to the world you're the best at what you do," he said.

After finishing a long and successful launch season last fall, the 576th FLTS and 595th SG stepped up their operations tempo and transitioned into an intense IG preparation period.

"It was a long hard journey for our folks,"

said Lt. Col. Mike Fortney, 576th FLTS commander.

"Motivated by pride and a sense of loyalty to the mission, unit, and each other, these men and women rolled up their sleeves and gutted it out. I'm extremely proud of each and every one of them. They had something to prove and they did it."

Less than 18 months ago, a headquarters Functional Management Review identified several problem areas the unit needed to address.

"This was a rigorous inspection. We left no stone unturned and you've exceeded all of our expectations," said Col. Mark Homrig, IG team leader. "Nobody on the team has ever seen a unit turn around this much in this short a time. The efforts here have been truly remarkable."

Col. Blaine McAlpin, 595th SG deputy commander, said the turnaround was a total team effort.

"We appreciate the great support from the 30th Space Wing," Mc Alpin said. "In all my years, I've never seen an inspection go this well."

Fraser again lauded the team's efforts. "This unit demonstrates the bedrock of the nation's security—nuclear deterrence. You put a face to that deterrence," he said.

After months of hard work, the ICBM operators and maintainers of the 576th FLTS and the 595th SG demonstrated that when it comes to launch operations, technical compliance, and conduct of missile maintenance and operations, they truly lead the way.



PHOTO BY AIRMAN 1ST CLASS MICHELLE MIRANDA

**Jay Prichard, Vandenberg Heritage Center curator, shares his knowledge of Vandenberg AFB with airmen from the First Term Airmen's Center during their tour of the museum.**

## FTAC helps inexperienced airmen make transition

By AIRMAN 1ST CLASS BRYAN FRANKS  
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

■ Nineteen airmen graduated from Vandenberg's First Term Airmen's Center Jan. 17 in the new FTAC building here.

FTAC was established to help first-term airmen adjust to their first assignment from the technical school environment. It provides a foundation for professional military development, and assists with base in-processing, said Senior Airman Michael Napolitano, interim FTAC program manager.

The airmen begin the 10-day course with a mission brief explaining the role Vandenberg Air Force Base plays in the nation's defense. The course also covers safety, Family Support Center programs, educational opportunities and more.

Course instructors encourage troops to get involved in community service. FTAC class 03-A chose to set up a food drive producing three carloads of food for the pantry on base, Napolitano said.

Dress and appearance is stressed during the course. Class instructors conduct inspections of troops in their battle dress uniform as well as in their service dress uniform. The class also participates in physical training at the gym together.

Located in building 10364 between the Bowling Center and Four Seasons, FTAC takes the pressure off of units by providing a central location for briefing new airmen. The units don't have to worry about

See FTAC Page A3

## Site increases access to services

By STACEY KNOTT

Air Force Space Command Public Affairs

■ Air Force Space Command members, their families and retirees now have easy public access for all their family support needs.

The new AFSPC command Web site, People Helping People-Integrated Delivery System, was launched last May, but until recently only members with restricted ".mil" site access were able to view it. Now, one-stop shopping for base community information and resources is available for everyone.

"We found that military spouses and retirees needed increased access to base support information, but they couldn't get to it from the '.mil' site. So we bought a '.com' site in order to meet their needs," said Betty Schuster, People Helping

People-Integrated Delivery System executive director.

The People Helping People site at <http://www.php-ids.com/> allows people to check out a variety of service agencies: the family support center, chapel services, health and wellness center, family advocacy program, life skills support center, military equal opportunity, family member support flight, drug demand reduction and legal.

The site also offers easy registration for classes, newsletter subscription and a calendar of events.

The PHP-IDS working group at AFSPC developed the site to ease the difficulty and frustration associated with trying to find this type of support information and to help eliminate duplication, overlap and gaps in the existing services.

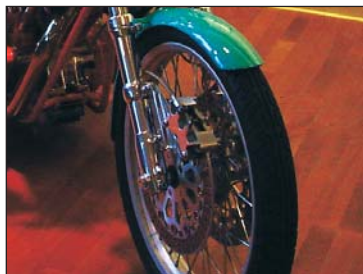
In this issue of the



Also view  
The Space & Missile Times at  
[www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space\\_times/](http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/news/space_times/)



**Volunteers build students' confidence through the Partners Assisting in Reading Program. See Page A3.**



**Destinations Central Coast checks out a custom Harley at the Solvang Motorcycle Museum. See Page B1.**

**Weekend forecast**  
Partly cloudy to sunny  
Saturday and Sunday.



**Low/High**  
**43/74**

For a full Vandenberg weather report, visit  
[www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather](http://www.vandenberg.af.mil/30sw/organizations/30og/weather/weather)



*The 30th Space Wing Mission: To provide combat capabilities through launch, range and expeditionary operations.*

**Q** I live on Cedar Street. I wanted to know why cars are allowed to park on both sides of the street here. This is the only street in housing where people are allowed to do this. I've called security forces about it several times and they said it's up to the patrolman's discretion to write a ticket. I just wanted to know why the rule doesn't apply to our street. Housing has also sent out booklets saying that parking on the side of the street with a fire hydrant is illegal.

**A** Thank you for bringing this to my attention and allowing our security forces to rectify it. You are absolutely correct, parking is not allowed on the fire hydrant side of the street. While it is true that a patrolman has the discretion on how to correct a violation, he does not have the discretion to ignore the law. Thank you again for taking the time to help correct this situation. Please feel free to call the NCO in charge of Police

Services at 605-2582, any time you feel your situation is not being properly addressed.

**Q** In July I was crossing Juniper and Utah streets attempting to get around a puddle of standing water on the street. I was stepping around the edge of the puddle when my foot slipped, cracked sideways and I fell into the puddle of standing water. I was in horrific pain and couldn't walk but had to crawl to my vehicle nearby. I had hoped it was just a sprain but it turns out that I had fractured a bone in my right foot. This may seem like a freak accident but I have to disagree. I've seen many people, especially children, slip and fall in areas of standing water throughout the base. Most areas occur where the pavement is connected to cement, which becomes slippery when water stands long enough to cause slime. Is there any way to solve the problem of standing water on base?

**A** Thank you very much for your letter. I'm sorry for the pain caused by your accident. Base civil engineers are aware of the drainage problems here and are currently working on a solution. An inadequate drainage system, solid soil and over watering all contribute to areas of standing water throughout base housing. Our civil engineers are designing an underground drainage system to replace much of the current surface drainage. Drain inlets along and pipes under Juniper Street will form a major spine in the new system. In the meantime, I'd ask everyone to please be cautious on or near wet surfaces whether walking, driving or biking. Residents can also prevent standing water by not over watering their lawns.

Thank you again for your fortitude in helping to keep Team Vandenberg safe.

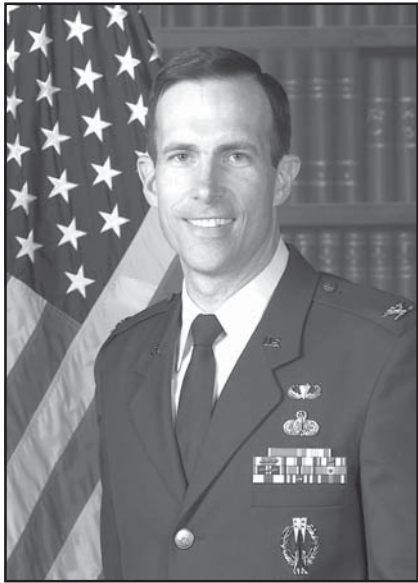


Call 606-7850  
or  
E-mail your message to  
[actionline@vandenberg.af.mil](mailto:actionline@vandenberg.af.mil)

**M**ission success is our top priority, and the talented men and women of Team Vandenberg get it done with excellence.

The 30th Space Wing Commander's Action Line is your direct communication link to me. It provides an avenue for you to voice your concerns, share constructive ideas, or give your Vandenberg teammates a pat on the back. I appreciate your input, and I am personally involved in every response.

While the action line is a great way to communicate, don't forget to use your chain of command, first sergeants, base services officials and other base professionals first.



**Col. Robert M. Worley II**  
Commander

Thank you for helping to make Vandenberg such a great place to work and live.

When calling the action line, please leave your name and phone number in case more information is needed.



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*For information about the Space & Missile Times, call the staff at (805) 606-2040.*



# Team V volunteers to make a difference

*Recess time means reading with a buddy for some Crestview Elementary School students.*

By 2ND LT. JENNIFER WHITAKER  
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Members of Team Vandenberg are making a big difference in the lives of some Crestview Elementary schoolchildren here.

The volunteers are part of the Partners Assisting in Reading program, headed up by reading teacher Doris Ribble and Vandenberg family member Yuen DeAnda, who is also a volunteer for the program.

A Crestview reading teacher started the PAIR program about seven years ago to help students become more confident, fluent readers. The program allows an adult volunteer to spend 20 to 30 minutes, once per week, reading in a one-on-one situation with a student in need of reading practice, said Diane Zemanovic, a third grade teacher at Crestview.

Sandra Woo, a third grade teacher at Crestview, said the program is wonderful. "We tell our students that reading is just like playing an instrument, to be good at it, you need practice," she said.

Woo has five students participating in the program. She said the students keep a notebook journal that allows them to respond to the literature and gives the PAIR volunteer a chance to reinforce reading strategies such as predicting, summarizing, self-questioning and finding context clues.

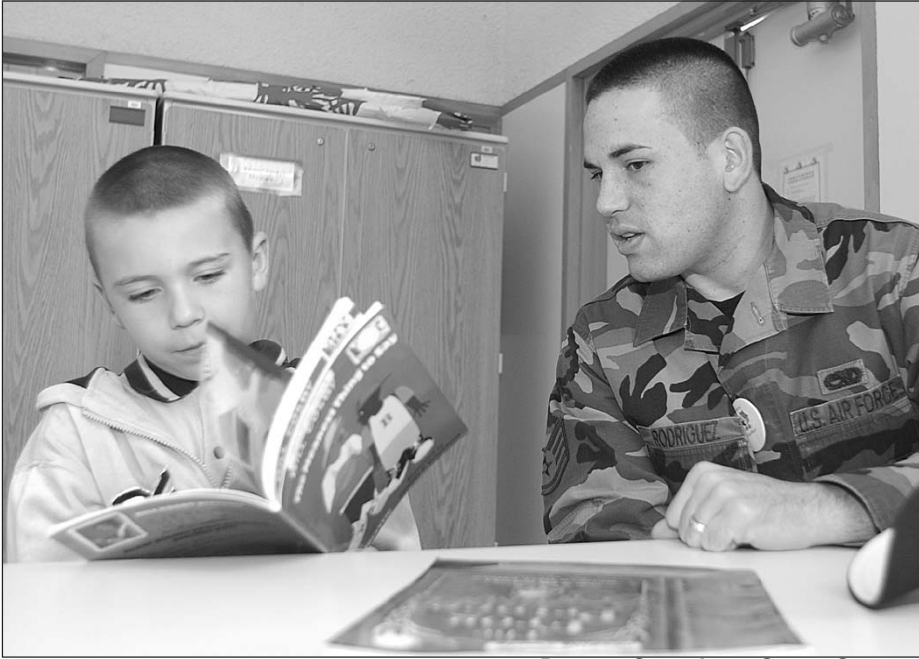
"The PAIR partner can share stories from their own life, so the kids learn to relate literature to their lives," Woo said.

Robin Madden, senior financial analyst for Lockheed-Martin, has been volunteering with the PAIR program for two years. She said she volunteers because she has school-age children of her own and she has a clear idea of how beneficial one-on-one reading time with a child is.

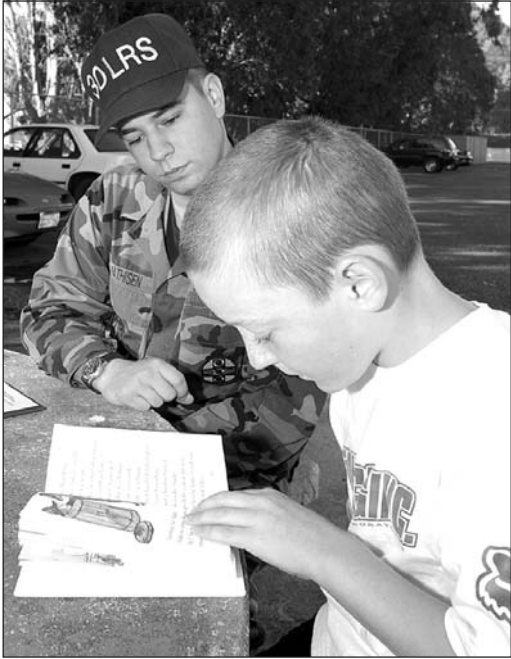
"It's very rewarding and emotional to



**Senior Master Sgt. Charles Metcalf, 14th Information Warfare Flight, helps Chealsee Labine sound it out. Metcalf is one of 36 PAIR volunteers.**



**Staff Sgt. Brian Rodriguez, 30th Space Communications Squadron, shares reading strategies with Michael McElroy as part of the Partners Assisting in Reading program at Crestview Elementary School.**



**Nathan Reed reads one of his favorite books with Senior Airman George Mathisen, 30th Logistics Readiness Squadron.**

PHOTOS BY SENIOR AIRMAN STEPHEN SCHESTER

work with the kids. Some children lack the benefit of time with someone to help their reading," Madden said.

She said unfortunately, she doesn't get to spend time with all of the children who need help. For the students she is able to work with, she tries to find out what their interests are and get them to read about those things.

Zemanovic said teachers nominate students for the program and submit their names to the reading teacher. Priority goes to those students who most need help with their reading skills, but the program is open to all students.

"We try to focus on students who really need help with their reading skills because we don't have a PAIR partner for every student," Zemanovic said.

Both teachers said the program has many benefits. Woo said she loves seeing the students become more interested in reading and sees progress in her slower readers as they get more reading practice.

Zemanovic said she's seen the program affect both students and volunteers alike.

"These are often kids who aren't excited about reading, and they thrive on the undivided attention the PAIR partner is able to give them," she said. "I have found the effect is monumental. I've seen kids' reading scores go up drastically. Their comprehension skills, their oral reading skills, everything is affected, and this carries over to the classroom and affects the rest of their grades."

"I've also seen it affect the PAIR partners. I've seen PAIR partners who have wanted to become teachers as a result of working with the kids," Zemanovic said.

She added that the program was a great solution to several dilemmas at the school.

"There just aren't enough hours in the day to work with all the students you need to work with, and there were people who wanted to volunteer at the school, so this was a good solution to the problem," Zemanovic said.

She said her students love the program.

"Some people would say, 'They're missing their recess,' and I say, 'Yeah, but these kids don't care. They're so excited to have their PAIR partner come, and when their PAIR partner doesn't come, they express concern,'" Zemanovic said. "It's a real warm feeling to see a kid who struggles at first to get every word out, to suddenly be able to read much more smoothly, to be able to comprehend what they're reading."

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Libby, 532nd Training Squadron, is excited about volunteering for the PAIR program.

"The PAIR program is a wonderful experience for anybody who wants to bring the quality of a child's reading level up," she said. "Having the PAIR program available to those who might need it makes me grateful that we will be able to pass a lifelong gift on to someone else who might have given up without the encouragement of others."

Tech. Sgt. Thomas Merret, 30th Civil Engineer Squadron, said reading to the kids brightens his day.

"The joy comes when you help them with a word and then they see that word later on and you don't have to help them with it."

Yuen DeAnda, Vandenberg family member and PAIR coordinator, said anyone who enjoys reading with a child for 30 minutes a week can volunteer for the program.

"Active duty members and stay-at-home parents make up our list of volunteers. We aligned under the American Red Cross last year, so PAIR volunteers can earn ARC credit hours, and in addition, the Family Support Center offers 15 hours of free childcare for PAIR volunteers," she said.

People who want to volunteer for the PAIR program should call Crestview Elementary School at 734-2896 or DeAnda at 734-1651.

## Military Training Instructor

*Vandenberg airmen find out if they have what it takes.*

By 2ND LT. MICHELLE MAYO  
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

No matter how high through the ranks a person has risen in the Air Force, they had to start somewhere. That somewhere was at the hands of a Military Training Instructor.

For those interested in becoming MTIs and molding the next generation of airmen, there is a general base-wide briefing Jan. 28 at 9 a.m. in the Vandenberg Professional Development Center, building 10364.

"There's a constant need for basic training instructors," said Master Sgt. Jodie Swanson, MTI Recruiting Team superintendent. "The MTI sets the stage for each individual's success in the Air Force and has the opportunity to mentor hundreds of new Air Force members."

Applicants undergo a vigorous

screening process that includes psychological health testing, a physical exam and personal interview. The interviews are conducted in the afternoon following the briefing.

"It's like one-stop shopping," said Senior Master Sgt. Michael Tierney, the Vandenberg point of contact for the recruiters. "You may know by the end of the day whether or not you have an assignment."

MTIs receive \$275 per month in special duty assignment pay, additional annual clothing allowance, an MTI ribbon and a stabilized three-year tour to Lackland, AFB.

Senior airmen who commit to a second enlistment through technical sergeants with less than 17 years total active service are eligible to apply.

It's not a decision to take lightly,

said Tech. Sgt. Robb Schultz, an instructor at Airman Leadership School.

Schultz was an MTI for three years from 1994 to 1997.

"I developed a lot as an NCO," Schultz said.

**"Being an MTI is a whole lifestyle, not just a job."**

TECH. SGT. ROBB SCHULTZ, AIRMAN LEADERSHIP SCHOOL INSTRUCTOR

"Being an MTI is a whole lifestyle, not just a job."

He said being an MTI was often hot, stressful,

time-consuming and required long hours.

"But then there was that point at the end of six weeks when you would see an airman who was completely changed or when parents would come up and say how proud they were of their son or daughter and you know you were a part of that," Schultz said.

People interested in attending the briefing should contact Tierney at 606-9815 or [michael.p.tierney@vandenberg.af.mil](mailto:michael.p.tierney@vandenberg.af.mil). Spouses are encouraged to attend the briefing.

services offered to new airmen on the base I otherwise would not have known about."

Not only do they get to meet other airmen, but FTAC students also get the chance to meet enlisted members and officers who've spent time in the operational Air Force.

Once airmen graduate from FTAC, they're set to begin work in their individual units and share the information they've learned.

Staff Sgt. Robert Vensel, military training leader at the 381st Training Squadron, takes over as the new NCO in charge of the FTAC Feb. 10.

"I think it is great opportunity for me to help shape and mold new airmen as they arrive to their first base," Vensel said.

## Crime Beat ...

### Belligerent Person – Jan. 14

A GS-8 government civilian employee became belligerent with a security forces member at the Solvang Gate. The man was instructed to report to the Visitor's Center for a pass before being allowed on base.

### Bicycle found – Jan. 14

A security forces patrol transported a silver children's Diamondback bicycle from the Youth Center playground to the Security Forces Control Center. Security Forces Investigations took possession of the bike.

### Alarm malfunction – Jan. 15

The Security Forces Control Center received an unannounced alarm from the Golf Course.

The course manager was contacted and responded around 3 a.m. An interior check was conducted. Personnel determined that the alarm had malfunctioned.

### Breaking and entering – Jan. 15

A senior airman telephoned the SFCC and reported he believed someone had broken in his residence in base housing while he and his wife were away. He said that when he came home, his door was unlocked, his dog was loose, and glass was on the floor and in his kitchen sink.

A patrol was dispatched, verified the damage and noticed there were no signs of forced entry. The airman said nothing was missing from the house.

### Helping Hand – Jan. 15

The SFCC was notified, via Eagle Control Center, Helping Hand 03-05 was implemented due to a government civilian employee entering three bad pin numbers at the Space Launch Complex-4 portal.

Patrols responded and secured the area at 2:45 p.m. Patrols made contact and through proper authentication procedures deemed all to be in order. At 2:50 p.m. Helping Hand 03-05 was terminated.

### Traffic stop – Jan. 16

A patrol initiated a traffic stop on a blue Ford Taurus on Highway 1. Upon making contact, the patrolman noticed a strong smell of alcohol emitting from the vehicle or driver.

A Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office deputy was driving by and offered his assistance. The deputy administered standardized field sobriety tests and determined there was not enough probable cause to arrest the driver.

### Suspicious activity – Jan. 16

The SFCC was notified by an anonymous caller of possible suspicious activity at a home in base housing.

The caller said the assigned occupants were away and the house was being watched by a second person. The caller also said there was a U-Haul parked in the front yard, which raised suspicion. A patrol responded to the home.

Upon arrival, the patrol made contact with the occupant who said they were given permission by the assigned occupant to stay at that location temporarily.

The SFCC contacted the assigned occupant on leave, who said she had authorized the person to remain at the residence until her return. She said she had failed to inform the second party watching the house.

### Theft – Jan. 16

A staff sergeant notified the SFCC that a washer and dryer had been taken from his open garage Jan. 15.

Investigation revealed two unidentified individuals working for Bonded Transportation in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., had removed a washing machine and dryer from a friend's garage without their consent. Estimated value of the washer and dryer was \$250.

### Found rockets – Jan. 17

A sheriff's deputy in Oakman, Ariz. notified the SFCC that he had received a call from a man who saw two crates of MK-10 MOD-7 Rockets in his neighbor's backyard. Security forces turned the situation over to 56th Fighter Wing personnel at Luke AFB.

### Skate park safety – Jan. 17

The wing commander notified the SFCC that he'd seen a person skating at the Vandenberg Skate Park without a helmet. A patrol responded and notified the individual, a U.S. Army reservist, that he could not skate without a helmet. Damage to government property –

## BRIEFS:

### From Page A1

in April. Volunteers may be military or civilian. They do not have to be a member of a particular group to chair an observance. For more information, call the MEO staff at 606-0370.

### SMT VALENTINE'S DAY MESSAGES

The Space & Missile Times will print Valentine's Day messages to base members Feb. 14. Submit messages via e-mail to [smt@vandenberg.af.mil](mailto:smt@vandenberg.af.mil) by Feb. 1.

Messages must be no longer than five lines and 75 characters per line. Anyone who would like to submit a

poem or short story, should call Staff Sgt. Rebecca Bonilla at 606-2040.

Submissions will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit all submissions.

### JUDGE ADVOCATE LAW SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Officers with between two and 10 years of active-duty service may apply for the Funded Legal Education Program and the Excess Leave Program. Both programs require attendance at an American Bar Association accredited law school.

Upon graduation and admission to practice law before any state's highest court or federal court, candi-

dates are eligible for designation as judge advocates. To be considered for FLEP or ELP, applicants must complete all application forms, apply to an ABA accredited law school, receive their Law School Admissions Test results, and complete a Staff Judge Advocate interview by March 1.

Call Maj. Lynnette Pratzner, Headquarters US Air Force Judge Advocate, at DSN 224-5941.

Information is also available online at [www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil](http://www.jagusaf.hq.af.mil) and in Air Force Instruction 51-101, Judge Advocate Accession Program.

### MEDICAL GROUP TRAINING DAY CLOSURE

The 30th Medical Group will close for training the fourth

Thursday of each month beginning Feb. 27. For emergencies – a threat to life, limb or eyesight – patients should call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. For urgent care only, call (800) 252-3299 or 606-2273. For more information, call 1st Lt. William Menza at 606-1407.

### PATRIOT VOICES AUDITIONS

Vandenberg's vocal ensemble, Patriot Voices, needs military members of all ranks to audition for this all-volunteer organization. Patriot Voices performs at various functions on base and in the local community. For more information, call Capt. Zack Guza at 606-4725 or Staff Sgt. Tim VanProoyen at 606-8483.

## ALCON: Normal

A general condition reflecting responsible alcohol use.

Days since last DUI: **19**

DUI totals for the year: **1**

Saves by AADD this year: **3**

30th OG	<b>0</b>	14th AF	<b>0</b>
30th MXG	<b>0</b>	381st TRG	<b>0</b>
30th MSG	<b>0</b>	576th FLTS	<b>0</b>
30th MDG	<b>0</b>	Det. 9	<b>1</b>
30th SW Staff	<b>0</b>	Others	<b>0</b>



After decades of wondering, search ends for two brothers



# Separated at birth, reunited in service

By Airman Joe Lacdan  
509th Bomb Wing Public Affairs

■ WHITEMAN AFB, Mo. – Michael McCutcheon never knew his older brother who was put up for adoption. The 28-year-old senior airman assigned to the 509th Maintenance Squadron here made efforts to find his older sibling, but each year his interest began to fade.

Then recently, as McCutcheon sat with family members at his parents’ house in Odessa, Texas, the phone rang.

His father answered. In tears, he handed the phone to McCutcheon.

“Hey brother,” said the voice on the phone.

The voice was that of his brother, Jonathan Webb, who was alive and well, living in Utah. To McCutcheon’s surprise, his brother also serves in the Air Force and is a first lieutenant stationed at Hill AFB.

“I got a chill up my spine, and I was all excited,” McCutcheon said. “I had so many mixed emotions and so many questions because he’s my brother and he’s full blood.”

Growing up in the bustling west Texas town of Lubbock, McCutcheon had dreams of someday finding lost artifacts and civilizations. He set the example for his younger siblings as the oldest remaining son of James and Loretta McCutcheon. But as he approached his teenage years, questions about his older brother loomed.

“My parents spoke little about Jonathan, but never kept it a secret,” McCutcheon said. “They didn’t know too much about him after he was gone.”

His need to find his lost older brother peaked when McCutcheon turned 18. He tried checking the Internet, calling search organizations, and went to the hospital in

*“I would always wonder what he’s doing and if he’s thinking about me.”*

SENIOR AIRMAN MICHAEL MCCUTCHEON  
509TH MAINTENANCE SQUADRON

Amarillo, Texas, where his brother was born.

Years passed, and McCutcheon married in the summer of 1994. He enlisted in the Air Force in October 1997 and received a job as an aircraft metals technologist. Reality began setting in that he may never find his brother.

“Every year it slowly started to get where I would think less about finding him,” McCutcheon said. “I would always wonder what he’s doing and if he’s thinking about me. But then I figured, ‘I’m 28 years old now, and I’m sure he’s living a good life.’ Every year it just got further and further out of my mind.”

Meanwhile, Webb was raised in western Colorado and enjoyed computer games and radio-controlled race cars. He said he led a happy life and felt content with his adoptive family which included two sisters. Webb’s adoptive parents did not hide the truth about his adoption at birth.

“I certainly never had any resentment (toward my birth parents), because I enjoyed a life filled with great opportunities,” he said.

The chance to become an Air Force officer was one of those opportunities.

Webb said his adoptive father served in the Army and strongly encouraged Jonathan to become an Air Force officer.



PHOTO BY STAFF SGT. FRANCESCA POPP

**Senior Airman Michael McCutcheon (left) and 1st Lt. Jonathan Webb, brothers who were separated at birth, meet for the first time at the Kansas City International Airport. Webb, who is a year older than McCutcheon, is assigned to Hill AFB, Utah, while McCutcheon serves at Whiteman AFB, Mo.**

Webb received his commission at the University of Oklahoma in 2000 and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in sociology and criminology.

While content with his life, the question of his biological relatives lingered. He began searching for his biological parents at 18, the legal age to begin a search.

Initially he said he searched out of curiosity, then in the summer of 1997 he married Oklahoma-native Sarah

Barrington. The birth of the couple’s first child, Brittany, changed his outlook and desire to find his birth parents.

“I got a greater sense in the back of my mind for genetic heritage,” Jonathan said.

Webb’s initial attempts to locate his parents led to dead ends. Then he contacted the lawyer who arranged his adoption and discovered his mother’s maiden name was Moore.

Webb tracked his parent’s marriage date

with his mother’s name and with that information, he acquired his birth parents’ phone number through an Internet search engine.

He dialed the number and the voice of an older man answered. Webb asked the man if he had been married in December 1973.

The man said, “Yes,” and asked Webb if his birth date was Aug. 23, 1973.

Webb said, “Yes.”

“Looks like you finally found us,” said Webb’s biological father.

After a week of endless telephone calls to his new-found brother, McCutcheon and his wife, Susan, and his grandparents waited at the Kansas City International Airport for the brother he never knew.

McCutcheon’s wife said earlier that day her husband jumped around the family’s house “giddy as a school girl.” At 6 p.m., Michael would meet the brother he never knew.

McCutcheon learned he had a niece and a sister-in-law. Webb not only found his biological parents, but learned he had three younger brothers, Michael, Bill (who passed away in a vehicle accident) and Shawn.

“It’s him!” McCutcheon said as he turned to the gate.

McCutcheon and Webb locked in a long embrace. Three decades of curiosity and doubt seemed to fade.

“(Meeting Michael for the first time was) amazing,” Webb said. “I had all this curiosity about the past 30 years. I think it’s interesting and a profound opportunity because we started at the same point in our lives (their birthplace, Amarillo). We can both go back and see what the other path would have been. How many people get to do that?”

# Security forces hold first Vandenberg strongman competition

By Tech. Sgt. Mark McKinney  
*30th Space Wing Command Section*

Saturday morning, Vandenberg was the site of a unique competition. That is, unique as far as Air Force installations go. The 30th Security Forces Squadron sponsored Team Vandenberg’s first-ever strongman competition. Master Sgt. Thomas Calhoun and Senior Master Sgt. Jerry Young, 30th SFS, organized and hosted this sporting event, held on the base parade grounds.

“We wanted to do something different than the same old traditional competitions,” Calhoun said. “This beats tug-of-war, is more exciting than calisthenics, and in general is just unique for an Air Force base.”

Noting the importance of giving weightlifters a platform to test their progress and compete in friendly competition, Calhoun was visibly proud of the events’ success.

“You see stuff like tug-of-war all the time,” said the NCO in

charge of Combat Arms Training. “Bench press competitions are fairly common as well. Then of course there are the physical fitness days. They’re all good events, but they’re common and it was time to try something a little uncommon.”

What took place here Saturday was an absolutely incredible show of strength! Four very strong men competed in seven events designed to test their strength and muscular endurance.

Let your imagination run wild for a moment and you may be able to visualize Tech. Sgt. Scott Fitzgerald, of the 533rd Training Squadron, sitting in a tug-of-war posture, pulling on a long thick rope ... sorry, I almost left out one large detail, it had a humvee attached to the other end. He pulled it some 20 yards, as did Staff Sgt. Matt Hedrick of the 30th SFS.

Take a moment longer and you might be able to imagine Staff Sgt. Thomas Williamson, also a

security forces member, literally running backward pulling a light cart 50 yards. The final competitor was Staff Sgt. Jason England of the 534th Training Squadron. England was by far the most physically imposing of the group at some 6 feet 3 inches tall.

The security forces-sponsored event was open to all men affiliated with the base. These four were the only ones to accept the challenge.

The first event was the Light Cart Pull. A 50-yard competition, that was the only event where all four men competed side-by-side. Fitzgerald jumped out to command an early lead, but alas, he stumbled and fell as the other three men eased past him. Showing the spirit and determination that would serve him well that day, he rose to his feet, rejoined the battle and worked his way back up to third place. Winning the first event was Williamson, with Hedrick holding on for second.

Event two was a familiar event in strong men competitions, the Tire Flop. The idea was to flop, not roll, but flop a huge truck tire down a 25-yard course for time. The third event was the aforementioned Humvee Pull, won by Fitzgerald as he began to make up ground. After three events, Williamson held a slight lead over Hedrick.

The Farmers’ Walk was the fourth event and possibly the most awkward. Each man had to grab hold of a handle attached to a long five-foot cylinder and carry it down and back on the 25-yard course used earlier for the tire flop. On the dead run, Fitzgerald continued to make up ground as he won the event.

Getting on the winners’ board for his first win, England won event five, which was the Dead Lift, a traditional strongman competition event. England’s winning weight was an impressive 455 pounds. He appeared to be able to lift plenty more, but common sense and

good tactics demanded prudence. Continuing to make a run at the title of Vandenberg’s Strongest Man, England made it two in a row with an event six win in the Pipe Carry. He carried the 125-pound pipe 150 yards, far and away the greatest distance.

To this point, each competitor was tested to the limit by this compilation of events, designed to bring the men to their collective knees ... mission accomplished!

“Sergeant Calhoun put a lot of time and effort in to make sure this event was a true challenge,” Young said. “He created and tested the events, in some cases developed the different equipment to be used, and organized the whole thing. I think the result says it all ... this was a great event. I only wish there would have been more people out to witness this.”

A couple of spectators who did witness the competition were two of the competitors wives.

“Scott is very dedicated to

weight training,” said Kristy Fitzgerald. “He has been weight training for 20 years and he is in the gym just about every day. He puts a lot into his training and expects a lot out of his body. His competitiveness will make him keep pushing himself ... that’s just Scott.”

“Jason loves the weights and he loves competition,” Joy England volunteered. “He’ll feel it later on, but while he is out here, he’ll give it all he has.”

The final event was the Flatbed Load, and it looked a bit more daunting now that the competition was near the end, than it did at the outset of the day.

Four different apparatus had to be carried anywhere from 10 to 25 yards and hoisted on to the top of a flatbed trailer. In general, this event was something that each of these men had proven would normally be kids play. But, six other grueling events and a couple of hours in the hot sun made it anything but kids play.

Fitzgerald held an ever so slight two-point lead over Hedrick heading into the final event, 18 to 16. Strategy dictated that Fitzgerald needed England or Williamson to win with him finishing third or higher. Throw strategy out the proverbial window, because Fitzgerald displayed the same drive that popped him to his feet in the first event after falling. After impressive efforts by Williamson and England in heat one, Fitzgerald blazed the course like the champion he now is, finishing in first place for the Flatbed Load and first overall. Hedrick finished a comfortable second, while England and Williamson finished in a dead heat for third place honors.

Strength is the hallmark of these weight lifters, but conditioning played a big role.

“This called for more endurance than I expected,” noted England. “I’m plenty strong, but that alone doesn’t win this type of competition.”

Point well taken! Hedrick and Williamson agreed that the event took a lot out of them, but was a good competition.



# SPACE & MISSILE

## FEATURES

## Destinations *Central Coast @ The Motorcycle museum*

By MASTER SGT. LLOYD CONLEY  
30th Space Wing Public Affairs

Most people head to Solvang for the Danish experience. The town, which was founded by Danish immigrants in 1911, is known for its picturesque Danish-style buildings and Scandinavian cuisine.

However, I found a place in Solvang that caters to different interests.

Nestled among the Danish-themed restaurants, shops and bakeries is the Solvang Motorcycle Museum.

The museum's collection ranges from the two-wheeled vehicle's inception to the present day. It includes vintage and rare motorcycles as well as European racing bikes.

For the motorcycle enthusiast, the museum is a truly a delight to behold, said Dave Gerber, a visitor to the establishment.

"But to the true motorcycle enthusiast, its an obsession," he said.

Motorcycles truly are an obsession for Gerber. His right arm is in a sling as a result of an earlier motorcycle accident.

"I'm here to satisfy my obsession until I can get back in the saddle," he said.



**Left: David Crosby, of Crosby, Stills and Nash, sits atop a 1946 Indian Chief cycle. Crosby is one of many motorcycle enthusiasts who visit the Solvang Motorcycle museum. Right: Master Sgt. Lloyd Conley, 30th Space Wing Public Affairs, tries on the fit of a 1989 custom Harley-Davidson.**



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. LLOYD CONLEY

From all indications, Gerber and his friends, Richard Harris and David Crosby, are truly impressed with the collection of vintage bikes on display.

"Now this is truly a thing of beauty," said Crosby mounting a 1946 Indian Chief cycle. Indian is the make of one of the first American-made motorcycles.

The museum's more than 50 year-old vehicle is in immaculate condition.

"We have European visitors to the museum who're surprised that there is such a museum here," said Jill Ballard, museum curator. They're also surprised at the variety of European motorcycles in the collection, she

said.

The museum's assortment is quite broad with something for everyone. Motorcycle enthusiasts can find such models as AJS, BMW, Ducati, Gilera, Matchless, Moto Guzzi, MV, Norton, Triumph, Velocette and Vincent.

There's everything from a 1910

FN cycle to a 1993 Ducati 888. The exhibits cross all makes, however, the museum's emphasis is tilted toward racing motorcycles.

Some of the bikes have distinctive appearances. To the left in the corner as you enter the museum is a Harley Davidson with a bright pinkish and green

paint job. "Some of our customers say that one belongs on the Miami Vice television show," Ballard said. "But Harley Club enthusiasts who visit the museum take one look at it and scream 'What have you done to it?'"

Ballard showed me a 1978 Suzuki GS 1000cc fresh out the crate with less than 2 miles on the odometer.

One really interesting fact about the motorcycles in the museum is that all of them are in working order, Ballard said. So the motorcycles on display are neither replicas nor empty shells, but the real thing.

The museum rotates some of the bikes each month so displays are constantly changing and expanding.

The museum is located at 320 Alisal Road in Solvang. For more information, call (805) 686-9522 or visit the Web site at [www.motosolvang.com](http://www.motosolvang.com).

The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. The admission price is \$5.



1974 Ducati Sport V twin model



1936 Danish Nimbus



1989 Custom Harley-Davidson



1970's Jawa Speedway Racer

## Community Calendar

**24**  
**FRI**

**Tops in Blue** – 7:30 p.m. today at the Lompoc Valley Middle School gym. Call 606-7976 or logon to [www.airforcetopsinblue.com](http://www.airforcetopsinblue.com)

**College for Kids dance classes** – Ages four to 18 years with or without dance experience can sign up now. Class fees range from \$20 to more than \$100. Call Allan Hancock College community education at (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3209, or logon to [www.hancockcollege.edu](http://www.hancockcollege.edu).

**College for Kids spring tennis camp** – 9 to 10:30 a.m. Saturdays beginning March 15 at the Allan Hancock College Santa Maria campus tennis courts. Beginners ages seven to 17, register now. Fee is \$50. Call (805) 922-6966, Ext. 3209.

**24**  
**FRI**

**Depression management treatment group** - The Life Skills Support Center offers a 6-week depression management treatment group to active duty personnel and their dependents. The group meets from 10:30 a.m. to noon Thursdays at the LSSC, with new groups beginning every 6-8 weeks. The group is

**24**  
**FRI**

appropriate for adults or mature adolescents experiencing depression. Medical or mental health providers can refer patients to this group using SF 513. Call Capt. Arlin Hatch or one of the LSSC staff at 606-8217.

**Air Force Spouse's Scholarships** – A \$1,000 scholarship is awarded to spouses of Air Force active-duty, reserve, and Air National Guard members annually. Applications are available at the base Education Center in building 14001. Apply by Jan. 31. Call 605-5904.

**American Military University** – offers free undergraduate tuition to spouses of active duty members who attend the college as undergraduate students through the Spouse Schoolmates Scholarship program. Call (703) 330-5398.

**Airmen's Attic** - needs donations of items necessary to set up a household. The program is open to military personnel, E-5 and below, with an Air Force Form 552 from their first sergeant. Call 606-5484.

**24**  
**FRI**

**24**  
**FRI**

**Host families needed** The Cultural Homestay Institute is looking for families to sponsor junior-high and high-school age Japanese students March 26 through April 3. Call Diana Gellentien at 735-9168 or 735-2771, Ext. 238, by Feb. 21 to sponsor a student.

**Dads to new dads program** – this mentorship program offers support to new dads. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

**Moms to new moms program** – this mentorship program offers support to new moms. Call Nancy Sias at 606-5338 for more information.

**Military care packages** – The Family Support Center staff is accepting donations to support deployed troops. Call 605-8553.

**Food Pantry** – The Family Support Center provides emergency food assistance and distributes food via the USDA Food Program. Donations are always needed. Call 606-2960.

**Free car seats** – available for single-income families E-4 and below. Call 606-5338.

**24**  
**FRI**

**24**  
**FRI**

**One-on-one marriage enrichment counseling** – at the Family Support Center. Call 606-9958.

**Harbor and boat cruises** – at Adventure Marina in Morro Bay. Call (805) 772-9463.

**Twilight beach horseback rides** – at Pacific Dunes Ranch in Oceano. Beginners are welcome. Call (805) 489-8100.

**Relaxation Room** – 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday - Friday at the Health and Wellness Center. Call 606-2221.

**Yoga Fitness classes** 9 a.m. Fridays, 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Services Center.

**Girl Scout cookie sales** - The Girl Scouts of Tres Condados are taking cookie orders Saturday through Feb. 9. Cookies are delivered at the beginning of March. The Girl Scouts will have booth cookie sales at the Commissary and BX areas in March. Offices and organizations may arrange to have Girl Scouts stop by to pre-order cookies. To purchase cookies from a Vandenberg Air Force Base Space and Sea Girl

**25**  
**SAT**

**26**  
**SUN**

Scout call the Scout Hut at 605-2217, leave a message, and a Girl Scout will contact you.

**Breakers Superbowl party** – 3 p.m. Sunday at Breakers Dining Facility. Pizza, chips and salsa, hamburgers and hotdogs are served. Free to all SIK members.

**Newcomer Orientation** – 8:30 to 11:45 a.m. Monday at the Pacific Coast Club. A child-friendly community fair is from 11:15 to 11:45 a.m. Call 606-0801.

**TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)** – 7 to 8 p.m. Mondays at the Health and Wellness Center. For more information call the HAWC at 606-2221.

**Single Parents' support group** – 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday at the Services Center. Call 606-9958.

**Sponsorship Training** – 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Family Support Center. Call 606-0801.

**Joint Retiree Activities Center** – Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday through Friday in building 10346 in the Base Exchange shopping center. Call 606-5474.

**28**  
**TUE**

**28**  
**TUE**

**Thrift Shop hours** – 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesdays and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays.

**Pre-separation Briefing** – 8 a.m. Tuesdays in the Family Support Center. The briefing is required 90 days prior to leaving the service. Call 606-0801.

**Resume writing class** – 9 a.m. to noon Wednesday at the Family Support Center. Call 606-8557 to register.

**Scouting for Food** – 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Commissary. The Vandenberg Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts are collecting non-perishable food items for charity. Call 2nd Lt. Matt Lester at 606-0002.

**Marketing yourself for a second career** – 1 to 3:30 p.m. Feb. 3 in the 381st Training Group auditorium, building 8290. This free professional lecture is for officers and senior NCOs who plan to leave the service in the next five years. Call 605-8557.

**Spouses Club Newlywed Game** - 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Pacific Coast Club. Make reservations by Feb. 6. Call 734-1867 (A-L) or 734-0397 (M-Z).

**3**  
**MON**

**12**  
**WED**

## Chapel Services & Events

For other denomination worship services and events, call the chapel at 606-5773.

- ♦ **"God's Chosen Vessel-Which One Are You?"** - 10 a.m. Saturday at Chapel 1. Speaker Alegra McBirney presents this program open to all women and their daughters. Tickets are available until Thursday. Call Sharon at 606-2523.
- ♦ **G.I. Java** – Opens at 1 p.m. Sunday for a Superbowl party. Regular hours are 5 to 9 p.m. Monday - Saturday for dorm residents. Volunteers and cookies are always needed. Call 606-5773.
- ♦ **National Prayer Luncheon** – 11:30

### WORSHIP SERVICE TIMES

**Sunday**  
8:30 a.m. Praise and Worship, Chapel 2  
10 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 1  
11:30 a.m. Traditional Protestant, Chapel 1  
11:30 a.m. Gospel, Chapel 2  
**Monday - Friday**  
11:30 a.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2  
**Saturday**  
5 p.m. Catholic Mass, Chapel 2

a.m. Feb. 3 at the Pacific Coast Club. Air Force Space Command Chaplain is the guest speaker. Call the chapel at 606-5773 to reserve tickets.

♦ **CCD classes are underway** - Sunday mornings at 8:30 a.m. in the religious education complex.

♦ **Junior CYOC** - God's Gang – Call 734-5503.

♦ **Protestant adult and youth Bible study** - 7 p.m. Tuesday in the Chapel 1 Annex. Call 605-7564.

## At the Movies

**Today**

### The Hot Chick

A popular yet mean-spirited teenage girl wakes up one day to find herself turned into a man in his 30's. Along the way to finding out how she ended up like that, she discovers how shallow and cruel she's always been. *Rated PG-13* for crude humor, language.

**Saturday Solaris**

Upon arrival at the space

station orbiting an ocean world called Solaris, a psychologist discovers that the commander of an expedition to the planet has died mysteriously. *Rated PG-13* for sexuality/nudity, language and thematic elements.

**Sunday Closed**

All movies start at 7:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted. A minimum of 15 people must be present for movies to run.